

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 STRASBOURG 108/1

USEEC BRUSSELS

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SUBJECT: SPEECH OF WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT BEFORE THE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

REF: STRASBOURG 107

1. SUMMARY. WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT ADDRESSED THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE DURING THEIR CURRENT MEETING IN STRASBOURG APRIL 27, EXPRESSING HIS VIEWS ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND ITS WORK IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, DETENTE AND THE CSCE PROCESS, AND THE CONTROL OF EUROPEAN TERRORISM. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHT OF THE GERMAN LEADER S SPEECH WAS HIS CALL FOR A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE BELGRADE MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING IN GERMAN, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT SPENT MUCH OF HIS ONE HOUR SPEECH DISCUSSING THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT, DESCRIBING IT AS THE MOST WIDE-
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RANGING GATHERING OF WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES FOR THE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS AND COOPERATION. IN HIS OPINION, THE COUNCIL ACTS AS THE VITAL LINK BETWEEN THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITIES AND THE OTHER ELEVEN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES WHO , BY REASON OF FACTORS IN THEIR POLITICAL SITUATIONS (SUCH AS NEUTRALITY) HAVE NOT OR CANNOT JOIN THE EC. THE GERMAN LEADER RECALLED THAT THE COUNCIL WAS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO

OPEN ITS DOORS TO HIS COUNTRY AFTER WORLD WAR II AND INVITE IT TO COOPERATE IN THE REBUILDING OF EUROPE.

3. SCHMIDT ADDED THAT THE COUNCIL S EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, LONG BEFORE THE UN COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, MADE THE INTERNAL IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS A JOINT CONCERN OF ITS MEMBER STATES. HE DESCRIBED THE COUNCIL S SYSTEM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AS A PROTOTYPE WHICH HAD BEEN A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. NOWHERE IN THE WORLD, SCHMIDT THOUGHT, IS THERE SUCH EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION OF THE INTERNAL HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICE OF STATES. NOTING THAT THIS YEAR MARKS THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION, SCHMIDT ASKS IF WHETHER SOME UPDATING OUGHT TO BE MADE IN THE CONVENTION SO THAT IT WILL MEET FUTURE REQUIREMENTS. THE CHANCELLOR IS IN FAVOR OF A CAUTIOUS EXTENSION OF THE CONVENTION TO EMBRACE FURTHER FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS SUCH AS THE PRINCIPLE OF THE EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN THE ADDITION OF OTHER RIGHTS WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NEW TECHNICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION IN DATA BANKS, OR THE PROTECTION OF THE SICK AND DYING, SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

4. SINCE REAL FREEDOM MUST HAVE A SOCIAL BASIS, SCHMIDT SAID THAT THE SAFEGUARDING OF SOCIAL HUMAN RIGHTS, SUCH AS RIGHTS FOR SUFFICIENT FOOD, HOUSING , HEALTH PROTECTION, AND EMPLOYMENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS PERSONALLY IMPORTANT TO HIM FOR REASONS OF INTERNAL SOCIAL STABILITY. IN THIS CONTEXT HE REGARDED THE HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION ISSUED BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE S COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS EARLIER THAT DAY (REFTEL) WHICH ADVOCATED THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IN THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL FIELDS AS A CONTRIBUTION FOR ENSURING PEACE.

5. MOVING TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, THE CHANCELLOR ADMITTED, IN HIS ONLY SIGNIFICANT REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES, THAT A EUROPE FREE OF WAR FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS, ABLE TO PURSUE A REALISTIC POLICY OF DETENTE, OWES IT ABOVE ALL TO OUR ALLIANCE AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE USA AND CANADA (A COMMENT MADE BY SCHMIDT IN AN INTERVIEW IN A STRASBOURG NEWSPAPER WHICH APPEARED THE MORNING OF HIS SPEECH, STATING THAT THE FLOWERING OF THE EUROPEAN IDEA IS ONLY THINKABLE UNDER THE SHIELD OF THE UNITED STATES.... THE EUROPEANS NEED THIS SHIELD AS A GUARANTEE OF THEIR LIBERTY AS THEY NEED TO BREATHE SEEMED TO TAKE SOME PARLIAMENTARIANS PRESENT BY SURPRISE).

6. ON DETENTE, SCHMIDT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NO EUROPEAN POLITICIAN OF ANY PERSUASION CAN CLOSE HIS EYES TO THE REALITY OF EUROPE S DIVISION INTO TWO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL BLOCS, ONE MUST SEE THAT

EUROPE'S CONTINUITY DOES NOT END AT THE FRONTIERS OF THESE BARRIERS. HE DECLARED EMPHATICALLY, RECEIVING THE STRONGEST APPLAUSE OF HIS ADDRESS, THAT THERE CAN BE NO PEACE IN THE WEST WITHOUT PEACE IN THE EAST. THE PEOPLE IN PRAGUE AND BUDAPEST, IN WARSAW AND MOSCOW ARE ALSO EUROPEANS. THE CHANCELLOR PRAISED THE CSCE DIALOGUE AS A DECISIVE FACTOR IN MULTILATERAL DETENTE IN EUROPE. THIS PROCESS IS SO IMPORTANT, EVEN BEYOND EUROPE, THAT WE CANNOT LIMIT IT TO TECHNICAL DETAILS AND EXCHANGES OF STATEMENTS OF POSITIONS PREPARED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. IN SCHMIDT'S OPINION, THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE SHOWED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF A PERSONAL MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS THAT GIVES THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO INQUIRE DIRECTLY OF EACH OTHER AS TO THEIR VIEWS. I SHOULD THEREFORE WELCOME AGREEMENT ON A FURTHER MEETING AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL

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AS THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE CSCE. THE CHANCELLOR GAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS OF THIS PROPOSAL IN HIS SPEECH, EITHER AS TO A POSSIBLE TIME OR PLACE FOR SUCH A MEETING.

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UNCLAS FINAL SECTION OF 2 STRASBOURG 108/2

USEEC BRUSSELS

7. IN MAKING AN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO THE STRESSES HIS GOVERN-

MENT UNDERWENT AT THE TIME OF THE SCHLEYER CRISIS LAST FALL, SCHMIDT SOMEWHAT POINTEDLY MADE REFERENCE TO CRITICISM HIS COUNTRY HAD RECEIVED DURING THAT DIFFICULT PERIOD. SOME PEOPLE, HE SAID, HAD FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO RECALL THAT WEST GERMANY HAS BEEN A CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY FOR A GENERATION. FORTUNATELY, HIS NATION HAD BEEN ABLE TO WEATHER SUCH PERVERSE CRITICISM WITH COMPOSURE BECAUSE OF THE SOLIDARITY OF OUR PARTNERS. THE GERMAN LEADER TOOK THIS OCCASION TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S RESPECT FOR THE ATTITUDE OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DURING THE MORO KIDNAPPING, DECLARING THAT NO TERRORIST CAN FORCE US TO SACRIFICE CONSTITUTIONALITY AND DEMOCRACY. ONLY WE OURSELVES CAN GAMBLE THEM AWAY. HE ADDED THAT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM (SIGNED BY THE NEWEST COUNCIL MEMBER, SPAIN, THAT MORNING) IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD ADAPTING THE TRADITIONAL RIGHT OF EXTRADITION TO EUROPEAN REQUIREMENTS BY ALLOWING THE EXTRADITION OF TERRORISTS ACCUSED OF COMMITTING VIOLENT CRIMES EVEN IF THEY CLAIM POLITICAL MOTIVES.

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8. SCHMIDT'S REMARKS TO A FULL AND ATTENTIVE AUDIENCE IN THE COUNCIL'S HEMICYCLE WERE VERY WELL RECEIVED. HE LATER RECEIVED THE 1977 LOUISE WEISS FOUNDATION PRIZE GIVEN BY A PRIVATE STRASBOURG ORGANIZATION IN RECOGNITION OF HIS FIGHT AGAINST EUROPEAN TERRORISM, RESPECT FOR INTELLECTUAL INDEPENDENCE, AND STRUGGLE FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE HUMAN CONDITION.

9. ENGLISH LANGUAGE SPEECH TEXTS ARE BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BONN (WHO WILL ALSO RECEIVE THE ORIGINAL GERMAN).MOHLER

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